

The CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is **opposed to HB 5734 AA Allowing Naturopaths to Prescribe Certain Drugs**. We are not opposed to non-physicians including naturopaths caring for children in any way. There certainly is room for this type of care for many families.

However, as non-physicians such as naturopaths seek to expand their scope of practice as providers of pediatric care, standards of education, training, examination, regulation and patient care are needed to ensure patient safety and quality health care. This is of utmost importance when caring for infants, children, adolescents and young adults, as we do in pediatrics.

Nowhere in the literature we have seen for Naturopathic training does it include medication and drugs. Prescribing regulated drugs is simply too important and potentially dangerous to allow to happen.

Pediatricians are also concerned about herbs, supplements, and other natural remedies being given to children, and the physician or school nurse not knowing. In some cases, other traditional medications may be given, and there can be reactions. There is concern with respect to the numerous well-established interactions of herbs and drugs. In consultation with a physician, usage of herbal remedies should be clarified, as some herbal remedies have the potential to cause adverse drug interactions when used in combination with various prescription and pharmaceuticals, just as a patient should inform a herbalist of their consumption of orthodox prescription and other medication.

For example, dangerously low blood pressure may result from the combination of an herbal remedy that lowers blood pressure together with prescription medicine that has the same effect. Some herbs may amplify the effects of anticoagulants.

For these reasons, we urge that this bill in any form not be passed.